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1018

St Louis May 23rd. 1808.

Sir.

Our present doubtfull standing with the Saucs & Fox indians renders it indispensable that I should immedi=ately dispatch Mr. Nicholas Boilvin to them with a com=munication on the part of our government. our relations also with Great Britain at this moment further urges the expediency of our knowing positively the disposition of the indians in our neighbourhood with respect to us, in order that such measures may be timely taken as will insure the safety of our frontier. to insure a favourable reception to our messenger Mr. Boilvin and to give the speach it's best effect I have thought it advisable that he should be accompanied by a military escort. the murderer of one of our citizens at Portage de Sioux will be demanded of them, if he is delivered it will be necessary that he should be conveyed to this place in order that he may be delivered to the civil authority. should the murderer not be delivered, I have given orders

orders to Mr. Bolvin to bring with him from those na-
=tions all publics property of every discription; this cannot
be effected but by the accomodation of a large boat and
a number of hands; such an equipment would cost the
government a considerable sum if undertaken by private
individuals and could not be expected even then to have
as good an effect, as if executed by the regular troops un-
=der your command. I have therefore thought proper to
call on you for a detatchment of one subaltern, one Sergt.
and twentyfive privates, and a barge equiped, with provisions
for 28 persons for fifty days. it is my wish that the offic
=er dispatched on this service may be ordered to convey
Mr. Bolvin to such places as the nature of the service
on which he is directed may require, and also to render
him every assistance in his power to enable him to
fulfill the objects of his mission. —

I am with due consideration and respect

Your friend & Obt. Servt.

Meriwether Lewis

Capt.

Col. Thomas Hunt
Comm.g the 1st U.S. Regt. Infty.